

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (currently amended) An image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus for recording and reproducing~~tion~~ a multiple picture
3 signal obtained by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality
4 of cameras via a frame switcher, said image recording and
5 reproducing apparatus having a skip reproduction feature for
6 alternating skipping of n frames and continuous reproduction of m
7 frames ~~[[()]] wherein n being is~~ a positive integer, and m ~~being~~
8 is a positive integer related to a frame switching pattern~~[[()]]~~.

1 2. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said number of frames to
3 be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

1 3. (original) The image recording and reproducing apparatus
2 according to claim 2, wherein said number of frames are changed
3 to (n-d) ($2 \leq d < n$, d is a positive integer) in case said number of
4 frames is decreased.

1 4. (original) The image recording and reproducing apparatus
2 according to claim 1, wherein at least m frames are continuously
3 reproduced at the end of a reconstructed image.

1 5. (original) The image recording and reproducing apparatus
2 according to claim 1, wherein at least m frames are continuously
3 reproduced at the beginning of a reproduction image.

1 6. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said skip reproduction
3 feature is implemented by a ~~processing~~ including a skip
4 processing step for ~~only~~ recognizing said frames and a
5 reproduction processing step for performing reproduction and
6 output of said frames.

1 7. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said skip-reproduction
3 feature is implemented by a ~~processing-including~~ skipping of n
4 frames and ~~the~~ a subsequent reproduction of m frames.

1 8. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said skip-reproduction
3 feature is implemented by a ~~processing-including~~ forward skipping
4 of a series of (n+m) frames, a reverse[[d]] skipping of m frames,
5 and a reproduction of m frames.

1 9. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said subsequent
3 reproduction of a reconstructed image is performed on m frames up
4 to ~~the~~ a final frame of the reconstructed image when the
5 difference between ~~the~~ a frame just before start of said skipping
6 and the final frame of [[a]] the reconstructed image is equal to
7 or greater than m frames and smaller than or equal to (n+m)
8 frames.

1 10. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said reproduction is
3 performed up to ~~the~~ a final frame of a reconstructed image when
4 the difference between ~~the~~ a frame of the reconstructed image
5 just before start of said skipping and the final frame of [[a]]
6 the reconstructed image is smaller than m frames.

1 11. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 8, wherein reverse[[d]] skipping of
3 a maximum of m frames is performed within the number of skipped
4 frames in the immediately preceding processing, when ~~the~~ a final
5 frame of an image is reached during said skipping.

1 12. (original) The image recording and reproducing apparatus
2 according to claim 7, wherein adjustment is made to set the
3 remaining number of frames to a multiple of (n+m) at start of
4 said skip reproduction feature and when the number of frames n to
5 be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

1 13. (currently amended) The image ~~image~~ recording and
2 reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein adjustment is
3 made to set ~~the~~ a remaining number of frames to a multiple of
4 (n+m) at start of said skip reproduction feature and when the
5 number of frames n to be skipped is changed during skip
6 reproduction.

1 14. (original) The image recording and reproducing apparatus
2 according to claim 1, wherein reproduction is suspended after
3 continuous reproduction of said predetermined m frames when
4 suspension of reproduction is instructed during execution of said
5 skip reproduction feature.

1 15. (currently amended) An image reproducing apparatus for
2 reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing
3 picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher,
4 said image reproducing apparatus having a skip reproduction
5 feature for alternating skipping of n frames and continuous
6 reproduction of m frames, wherein ~~[[()]]n being is~~ a positive
7 integer, and m ~~being is~~ a positive integer related to a frame
8 switching pattern[[]]].

1 16. (currently amended) An image reproducing method for skip
2 reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing
3 picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher,
4 said image reproducing method comprising the steps of:
5 skipping n frames of said multiple picture signal;
6 continuous reproducing m frames of said multiple picture
7 signal wherein n is a positive integer, and m is a
8 positive integer; and
9 repeating said skipping and continuous reproducing.

1 17. (currently amended) An image reproducing method for skip
2 reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing
3 picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher,
4 said image reproducing method comprising the steps of:
5 forward skipping n+m frames of said multiple picture
6 signal, [[;]] then reverse skipping m frames of said
7 multiple picture signal, [[;]] and then continuous
8 reproducing m frames of said multiple picture signal;
9 and
10 repeating said skipping, reverse skipping and continuous
11 reproducing, wherein
12 n is a positive integer, and m is a positive integer.